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Message Text

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10/50
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 ACDA-05 /070 W
---------- 043235
R 110930Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3023
INFO USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1243

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR INFORMATION ADDRESSEES

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, TC
SUBJ: UAE INTERNAL AFFAIRS STILL IN FLUX

REF: ABU DHABI 1071 (NOTAL)

BEIRUT POUCH BAGHDAD

1. AT MAY 12 SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING IT WAS DECIDED THAT ON KEY ISSUES OF UNIFICATION OF MILITARY AND INTERNAL FORCES FOREIGN EXPERTS SHOULD BE CALLED IN TO FORMULATE RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO HOW THIS SHOULD BEST BE ACCOMPLISHED. TWO MONTHS WERE ALLOWED FOR THIS, BUT IN MONTH THAT HAS ALREADY ELAPSED, EVENTS HAVE MOVED VERY SLOWLY. REQUESTS HAVE BEEN MADE OF SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, AND JORDAN TO SUPPLY EXPERTS IN THESE AREAS, BUT SO FAR NONE HAVE
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ARRIVED.KUWAIT ISDISTURBED AT POSSIBILITIES FOR INFIGHTING AMONG

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THESE GROUPS OF EXPERTS AND HAS TOLD UAEG THAT IT WOULD PREFER TO
33 9,)6 9,3 ,-589,-)856 SELECTED IN EACH AREA. FOREIGN MINISTER
SUWAIDI HAS REPORTEDLY EXPLAINED THAT SINCE UNIFICATION IS NOT SO
MUCH TECHNICAL PROBLEM AS IT IS POLITICAL, SHAIKH ZAYID SEES MAIN
VALUE OF THIS EXERCISE ENDORSEMENT OF UNIFICATION PRINCIPLE BY THESE
THREE COUNTRIES, ALL OF WHICH COMMAND RESPECT AMONG RULERS GENERALLY.
KUWAITIS NOW APPARENTLY RECONSIDERING MATTER. EGYPTIANS, WHOM
SUWAIDI WANTED ALSO TO INCLUDE IN THESE GROUPS, WERE DROPPED BECAUSE
OF OPPOSITION BY OTHER RULERS. INSTEAD EGYPTIANS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO
SUPPLY EXPERTS IN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW TO HELP DRAFT PERMANENT UAE
CONSTITUTION.

2. WHEN SHAIKH JABER OF KUWAIT WAS HERE, SHAIKH ZAYID PREVAILED ON
HIM TO PAY VISITS TO OTHER RULERS TO TALK UP UNITY THEME. JABER DID
SO, POINTING OUT ANACHRONISM OF CONTINUED DISUNITY AMONG UAE SHAIKHS
AT VERY TIME GULF STATE ARE BEGINNING TO FIND FIRMER GROUND FOR
CLOSER RELATIONS AMONG THEM. WE HEAR ALSO THAT MAIN PURPOSE OF RE-
CENT VISIT BY SUWAIDI TO RIYADH WAS TO PERSUADE AMIR FAHD TO COME TO
UAE SOON TO PERFORM SIMILAR MISSIONARY ROLE ON BEHALF STRONGER
FEDERAL AUTHORITY. FAHD AGREED TO DO SO, BUT WE HAVE NOT YET HEARD
ANY DATES FOR VISIT.

3. ON QUESTION FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO FEDERAL BUDGET FROM
OTHER RULERS, WE HEAR TWO VERSIONS AS TO HOW SHAIKH RASHID
INTENDS TO MAKE HIS 350 MILLION DIRHAM PAYMENT. ONE IS THAT
THERE WILL BE NO CASH TRANSACTION BUT THAT RASHID WILL DEDUCT FROM
HIS PROMISED CONTRIBUTION COSTS FOR VARIOUS SERVICES--SUCH AS
RUNNING HIS OWN HOSPITAL IN DUBAI--WHICH IN OTHER EMIRATES ARE
FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WHICH HE CAN UNDOUBTEDLY MAKE COME OUT
TO DH 350 MILLION. OTHER VERSION IS THAT HE HAS SPECIFICALLY FOR-
SWORN THIS KIND OF SLIGHT OF HAND AND HAS PROMISED ZAYID HE WOULD
HAND OVER THE CASH. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN RELIABLY TOLD THAT SHAIKH
SULTAN
OF SHARJAH AGREED TO MAKE TOKEN CONTRIBUTION OF DH 10 MILLION TO
FEDERAL BUDGET THIS YEAR.

4. IN MEANTIME BOTH WE AND OTHER EMBASSIES ARE HEARING AN INTENSI-
FICATION OF CRITICISM FROM THE OTHER EMIRATES ABOUT WAY THINGS ARE
BEING RUN IN ABU DHABI. THIS IS RUNNING ALONG LINES WE HAVE PRE-
VIOUSLY REPORTED--THAT SHAIKH ZAYID SPENDS TOO MUCH TIME ON FOREIGN
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VISITS, THAT HE IS GIVING TOO MUCH MONEY TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES, THAT
HE IS TOO MUCH UNDER THE SWAY OF EXPATRIATE ADVISORS, THAT FEDERAL
MINISTRIES HEADED BY ABU DHABI SHAIKHS ARE MODELS OF INEFFICIENCY
AND CORRUPTION, ETC. PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR HERE, WHO IS WELL
CONNECTED, SAYS HE BELIEVES THERE IS COUNTER-MOVEMENT OF ABU
DHABI-FIRSTERS THAT IS BEGINNING TO BUILD UP IN REACTION TO FLAK FROM
OTHER RULERS.

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5. UPSHOT OF ALL THIS SEEMS TO BE THAT SO FAR VERY LITTLE HAS CHANGED IN FEDERATION/EMIRATE RELATIONSHIP. RULERS HAVE NOT GIVEN ANY GROUND AS YET ON KEY ISSUE OF UNIFICATION OF ARMED FORCES AND INTERNAL SECURITY SERVICES, AND IF WE ACCEPT THE MORE CYNICAL INTERPRETATION OF MANNER IN WHICH SHAIKH RASHID INTENDS TO MAKE HIS CONTRIBUTION TO FEDERAL BUDGET, THIS IS NOT MUCH OF A BREAKTHROUGH EITHER.

CRITICAL QUESTION FOR ZAYID (WHICH IS VERY HARD FOR ANYONE TO ANSWER) IS HOW SINCERE OTHER RULERS ARE IN THEIR PROFESSIONS THAT IF ONLY ABU DHABI WOULD CLEAN UP ITS OWN HOUSE THEIR OBJECTIONS TO CLOSER INTEGRATION IN FEDERATION WOULD DISAPPEAR. IF ZAYID ATTEMPTS TO ELIMINATE CORRUPTION IN ABU DHABI AND IMPROVE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS THE AXE WILL FALL MAINLY ON HIS OWN COUSINS AND ABU DHABI TRIBAL SHAIKHS WHO HAVE BEEN GIVEN SINECURES IN VARIOUS MINISTRIES. HE COULD THUS END UP UNDERMINING FAMILY CONSENSUS UPON WHICH HIS OWN RULE STILL DEPENDS, ONLY TO FIND RULERS IN OTHER EMIRATES THINKING OF SOME FURTHER EXCUSE NOT TO JOIN FEDERATION EVEN AFTER ABU DHABI SHAPES UP. HAVING GIVEN THE SUWAIDI/TAJIR STRATEGY OF FORCING ISSUE WITH OTHER RULERS A TRY, AND IF THIS DOES NOT YIELD RESULTS, ZAYID WILL PROBABLY BACK OFF ONCE AGAIN TO LET TIME WORK FOR STRONGER FEDERATION.

TO ATTEMPT TO FORCE ISSUE BEYOND CERTAIN POINT, WITH OTHER RULERS STILL POSSESSING SIGNIFICANT LEVERAGE, COULD SPOIL HIS PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH OTHER RULERS AND EXACERBATE RATHER THAN REDUCE ISOLATIONIST TENDENCIES IN THE OTHER EMIRATES. ONE CANNOT BE OPTISMISTIC, EITHER, ABOUT ZAYID PROCEEDING EXPEDITIOUSLY TO CLEAN THE STABLES IN HIS OWN BAILIWICK. HE IS NOT AN ENERGETIC ADMINISTRATOR HIMSELF AND UNFORTUNATELY THERE IS NO ONE ELSE IN ABU DHABI BESIDES THE OVERWORKED AHMAD SUWAIDI WHO GIVES MUCH OF A DAMN.

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